<center>**REMARKS**</center>

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of August, 2008, in which claims 1-20 are presently pending. Of those, claims 1-9 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,418,433 to Chakrabarti, et al., in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0044818 of Liang, and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,085,753 to Weiss, et al. In addition, claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Chakrabarti, in view of Liang and Weiss, and further in view of the publication entitled "Mercator: A Scalable, Extensible Web Crawler", dated June 26, 1999, of Heydon, et al. For the following reasons, however, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above to more particularly point out the collaborative focus of the claimed invention by specifically reciting a plurality of miners that are sequentially configured and that each miner represents an individual focus topic, wherein each miner is configured to instruct a fetcher to crawl a plurality of out-links on a document of the resulting resource locator string whenever the contents of the resulting resource locator string match the specific focus topic of the miner, and wherein each miner is configured to ignore the resulting resource locator string whenever the contents of the resulting resource locator string do not match the specific focus of the miner. In addition, claims 10, 12 and 13 are also amended to provide consistency for the "plurality of miners" terminology. Support for the present amendment is found at least in Figures 3 and 4 of the drawings and in paragraphs [0041] – [0046] of the specification.

In the present (and previous) rejections of the pending claims, with respect to the claimed collaborative focus, the Examiner cites column 4, line 61 through column 5, line 13 of the Chakrabarti reference as teaching a topic analyzer 28 (or "hypertext classifier") that compares the content of a Web page with a predefined topic or topics and generates a

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response representative of how relevant the Web page is to the topic. Further, with respect to the claimed "miner" function (previously in the context of cancelled claims 6-10), the Examiner cites to various locations in column 10 of Chakrabarti, which discusses in detail the logic of the worker thread as shown in Figures 4 and 5 of Chakrabarti.

Even if such portions of Chakrabarti do teach or suggest certain aspects of a miner function within the meaning of the claims (a point <u>not</u> conceded by the Applicants), neither Chakrabarti nor the other references of record teach or suggest the specifically claimed "plurality of <u>sequentially</u> configured miners" that each represent an individual focus topic.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of the outstanding §103 rejections of the remaining pending claims have now been addressed and overcome. Finally, the Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled computer program product and system claims 14-20 in one or more continuing applications.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0441 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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